



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294  
(323) 881-2401

DARYL L. OSBY  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

September 24, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

### UPDATE: IMPERIAL INCIDENT, CITY OF HAWTHORNE

This memo is to provide your Honorable Board with an additional update on the Imperial Incident, which involved a methane gas release from a water well at the Golden State Water Company in the City of Hawthorne on September 12, 2013.

As stated in the Board memo dated September 20, 2013 (attached) the pressure control company, Boots & Coots, was working that day to install a blowout preventer on the well head to prevent the escape of gas. Although problems were encountered with the parts used to assemble the blowout preventer, the problem has since been resolved. The blowout preventer was installed on Friday, September 20, 2013, and there have been no methane gas readings since then.

On Sunday, September 22, 2013, at approximately 2:00 p.m., work was stopped on the project due to Boots & Coots not following the work plan as approved by the Department of Public Health. On Monday, September 23, 2013, during a conference call with the Golden State Water Company, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the State of California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, all parties agreed to an altered work plan and work continued at the well site.

The altered work plan included the pumping of cement into the gravel layer of the well to establish a solid partition between the methane gas and the opening of the well. The first course was completed at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 23, 2013, with another to follow once it had cured. The second course was completed at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2013.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE  
EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLENORA  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRWINDALE  
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD

MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

Boots & Coots pressure tested the concrete cap this morning. However, it did not pass. Currently, the work crews are pumping a gel material into the well which will be followed up with another pumping of cement.

The residents will remain evacuated until this process is completed and the area is deemed safe. Health Haz Mat will remain on scene until the conclusion of the incident.

At a briefing on September 23, 2013, the following items were discussed:

- A date for next public meeting to update the citizens is still pending.
- At the meeting, the residents will be briefed on the process of reoccupying their homes.
- Prior to the residents reoccupying their homes, Health Maz Mat will monitor all the rooms in the homes and the Gas Company will re-light all the pilots prior to residents reentering.
- A doctor will explain the symptoms of methane gas exposure and answer any questions.

I will provide an update to your Honorable Board as more information becomes available.

DLO:mr

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka  
Brence Culp  
Georgia Mattera  
Monica Garcia  
Sergio Vasquez  
Randi Tahara  
Joseph Charney  
Susan Nissman  
Rick Velasquez  
Sussy Nemer



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DARYL L. OSBY  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

September 20, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

### IMPERIAL INCIDENT, CITY OF HAWTHORNE – SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

This memo is to provide your Honorable Board with updated information on the Imperial Incident, which occurred on September 12, 2013, at the Golden State Water Company in the City of Hawthorne. This incident involved a hazardous material release from a water well at the company site. A Major Incident Report was forwarded to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on September 13, 2013 (attached).

Currently, work crews have stopped large quantities of water and methane flow from the well; however, there is still methane gas seeping from the well head. On Thursday, September 19, 2013, the goal of the work crews was to install a blowout preventer on the well head to control escape and to prevent another large release. Unfortunately, one of the parts used to assemble the blowout preventer failed its laboratory test. As of 6:00 a.m. today, the pressure control company, Boots & Coots/Halliburton, is continuing to work at the well site and is confident the problem will be corrected (approximately a 10-hour operation).

The Los Angeles County Fire Department and the City of Hawthorne held a meeting with the local residents on Thursday, September 19, 2013, to provide a status on the situation and to address their concerns. The following agencies are also providing their assistance as needed: Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health-Environmental Services, CEO-Office of Emergency Management, Golden State Water Company, and Boots & Coots/Halliburton.

At this time, it is estimated that residents will be able to return to their homes on Monday, September 23, 2013.

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LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
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WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

There are three critical tasks that must be accomplished in succession prior to allowing residents back into their homes.

- Successful installation of the blowoff preventer on the well head (see attached picture).
- Pouring a primary concrete plug into the well. This will require 12 hours to cure.
- Pouring of a secondary concrete plug into the well. This will also require 12 hours to cure.
- If all seepage of methane is stopped with this process, residents will be allowed to return to their homes.

Residents are currently being housed at the following hotels in the City of Hawthorne:

- Candlewood Hotel
- La Quinta Inn
- Comfort Inn
- Ramada Inn

I will provide another update to your Honorable Board as more information becomes available.

DLO:en

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